

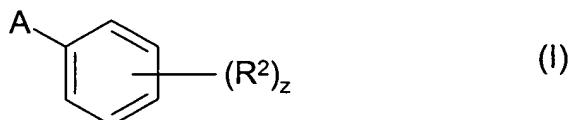
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

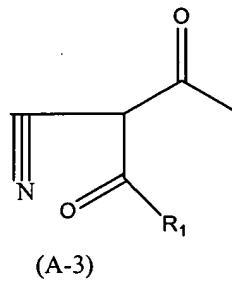
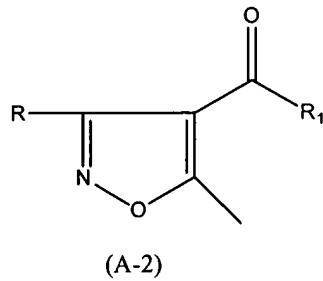
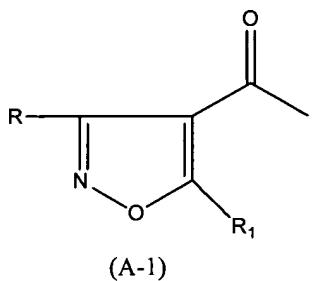
1–22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously presented) A method of reducing phytotoxicity to a crop at a locus caused by the application thereto of a herbicidal benzoylisoxazole and/or dione derivative of formula (I):



wherein

A is a group (A-1), (A-2) or (A-3):



R is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from one to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵, one or more

halogen atoms or a group CO_2R^3 ; or is a group selected from $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^3$, $-\text{COR}^5$, cyano, nitro, $-\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$ and $-\text{S(O)}_k\text{R}^{13}$;

R^1 is straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 is a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-\text{OR}^5$; or is a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^5$, $-\text{S(O)}_p\text{R}^6$, $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_m\text{OR}^5$, $-\text{COR}^5$, $-\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}_2\text{R}^7$, $-\text{OR}^5$, $-\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^7$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^3\text{R}^4$, $-\text{CONR}^3\text{R}^4$, $-\text{CSNR}^3\text{R}^4$, $-(\text{CR}^9\text{R}^{10})_y\text{S(O)}_q\text{R}^7$ and $-\text{SF}_5$;
or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-\text{S(O)}_q\text{R}^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=\text{O}$ (or a 5- or 6- membered cyclic acetal thereof), and $=\text{NO}-\text{R}^3$, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where at present in the ring, may be in the form of a group $-\text{SO-}$ or $-\text{SO}_2-$;

z is an integer from one to five: when z is greater than one the groups R^2 may be the same or different;

R^3 and R^4 are each independently a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^5 is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R^6 and R^7 , which may be the same or different, are each R^5 ; or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $S(O)_pR^{13}$, $-NR^{11}NR^{12}$, $-OR^5$ and $-CONR^3R^4$;

R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are each a hydrogen atom or R^6 ;

R^{11} and R^{12} are each a hydrogen atom or R^5 ;

R^{13} is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

p and q are each independently zero, one or two;

k and m are each one, two or three;

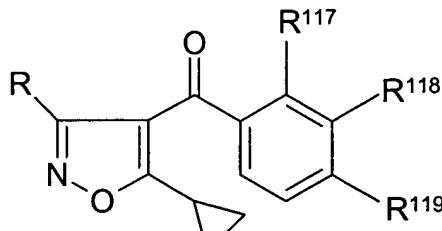
y is an integer from one to four; when y is greater than one; the groups R^9 and R^{10} may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof;

which method comprises applying to the locus of the crop before the herbicidal compound an antidotally effective amount of an antidote compound, and optionally partner herbicide,

wherein the antidotally compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of ethyl 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylate and 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylic acid.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein the compound of formula (I) is a compound of the formula (la):



(la)

wherein:

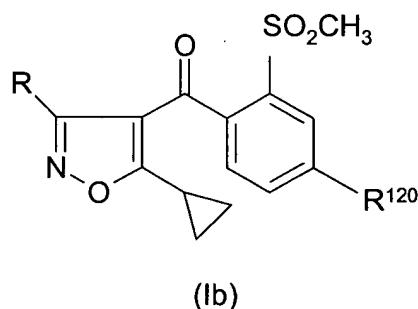
R is hydrogen or $-\text{CO}_2\text{Et}$;

R^{117} is selected from $-\text{S(O)}_p\text{Me}$, Me, Et, a chlorine, bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and $-\text{CH}_2\text{S(O)}_q\text{Me}$;

R^{118} is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, a bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy, ethoxy and $-\text{S(O)}_p\text{Me}$;

R^{119} is selected from a hydrogen atom, a chlorine, a bromine or fluorine atom, methoxy and CF_3 ; and p and q each independently have the values zero, one or two.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24 in which the compound of the formula (I) is a compound of formula (lb):



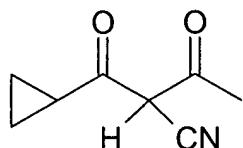
wherein R^{120} is chlorine, bromine or trifluoromethyl; and R is hydrogen or $-\text{CO}_2\text{Et}$.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25 in which the compound of the formula (I) is 5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 in which the antidote compound is ethyl 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylate.

28. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26 in which the antidote compound is 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylic acid.

29. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23 wherein A in formula (I) is a group of the formula



30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 in which the antidote compound is ethyl 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylate.

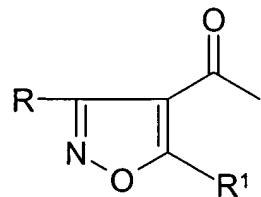
31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29 in which the antidote compound is 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylic acid.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 30 wherein $(R^2)_z$ in formula (I) is 2-methylsulfonyl-4-trifluoromethyl.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31 wherein $(R^2)_z$ in formula (I) is 2-methylsulfonyl-4-trifluoromethyl.

34. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein in the compound of formula (I):

A is a group (A-1):



(A-1)

in which R is $-S(O)_kR^{13}$.

35. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein

R is $SO-R^{13}$ or SO_2R^{13} ,

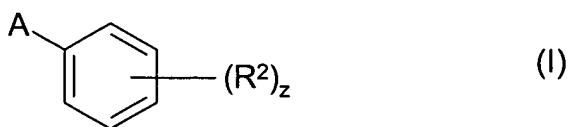
R^1 is cyclopropyl, and

R^{13} is an alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms.

36. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition comprising

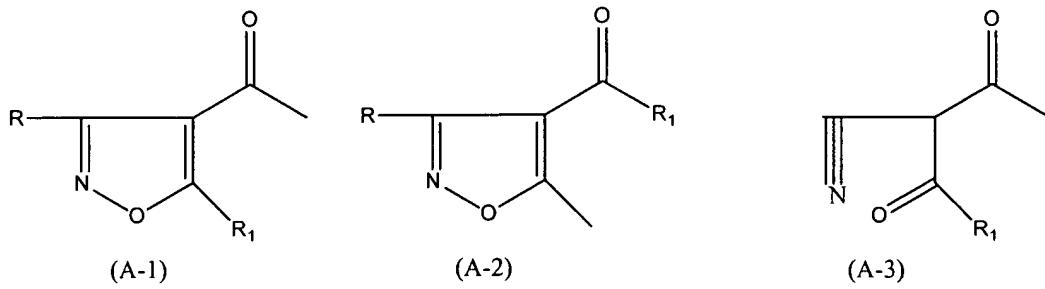
(a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim

23



wherein

A is a group (A-1), (A-2) or (A-3):



R is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a straight- or branched chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from one to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; a cycloalkyl group containing from 3 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R^5 , one or more halogen atoms or a group CO_2R^3 ; or is a group selected from $-CO_2R^3$, $-COR^5$, cyano, nitro, $-CONR^3R^4$ and $-S(O)_kR^{13}$;

R¹ is straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more groups R⁵ or one or more halogen atoms;

R^2 is a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is substituted by one or more groups $-OR^5$; or is a group selected from nitro, cyano, $-CO_2R^5$, $-S(O)_pR^6$, $-O(CH_2)_mOR^5$, $-COR^5$, $-NR^{11}R^{12}$, $-N(R^8)SO_2R^7$, $-N(R^8)CO_2R^7$, $-OR^5$, $-OSO_2R^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-CONR^3R^4$, $-CSNR^3R^4$, $-(CR^9R^{10})_y-S(O)_qR^7$ and $-SF_5$;

or two groups R^2 , on adjacent carbon atoms of the phenyl ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, form a 5 to 7 membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic ring containing up to three ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur, which ring is optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from halogen, nitro, $-S(O)_qR^{13}$, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, $=O$ (or a 5- or 6- membered cyclic acetal thereof), and

=NO-R³, it being understood that a sulphur atom, where at present in the ring, may be in the form of a group -SO- or -SO₂-;

z is an integer from one to five: when z is greater than one the groups R² may be the same or different;

R³ and R⁴ are each independently a hydrogen atom, or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R⁵ is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms or a straight- or branched-chain alkenyl or alkynyl group containing from two to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R⁶ and R⁷, which may be the same or different, are each R⁵; or phenyl optionally substituted by from one to five groups which may be the same or different selected from a halogen atom, a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms, nitro, cyano, -CO₂R⁵, S(O)_pR¹³, -NR¹¹NR¹², -OR⁵ and -CONR³R⁴;

R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each a hydrogen atom or R⁶;

R¹¹ and R¹² are each a hydrogen atom or R⁵;

R¹³ is a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

p and q are each independently zero, one or two;

k and m are each one, two or three;

y is an integer from one to four; when y is greater than one; the groups R⁹ and R¹⁰ may be the same or different;

or an agriculturally acceptable salt or metal complex thereof, optionally in combination with a partner herbicide; and

(b) an antidotally effective amount of an antidote compound selected from ethyl 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylate and 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylic acid.

37. (Previously Presented) A herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 36 wherein the herbicidal compound of formula (I) is 5-cyclopropyl-4-(2-methylsulphonyl-4-trifluoromethylbenzoyl)isoxazole.

38. (Previously Presented) A herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 37 wherein the antidote compound is ethyl 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylate.

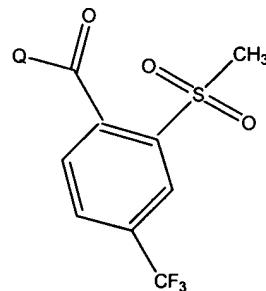
39. (Previously Presented) A herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 37 wherein the antidote compound is 5,5-diphenyloxazoline-3-carboxylic acid.

40. (Previously Presented) A herbicidal composition as claimed in claim 39 wherein the weight ratio of the compound of formula (I) : antidote is from 1:25 to 60:1.

41. (Previously Presented) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

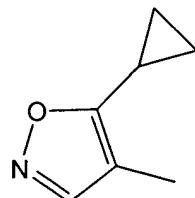
(I)



wherein

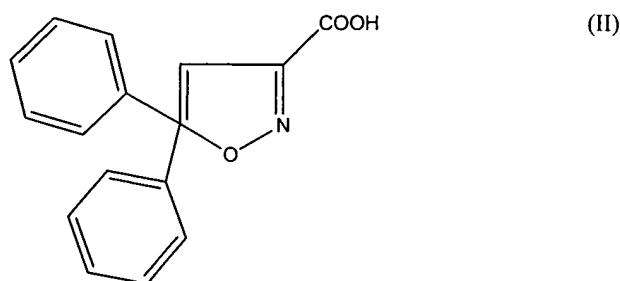
Q is the group

(Q₁)



and

b) to antagonize the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener of formula II

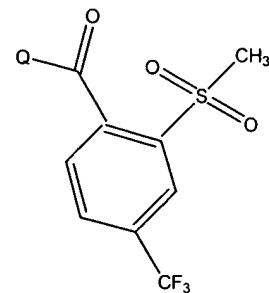


42-59. (Cancelled).

60. (Currently amended) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

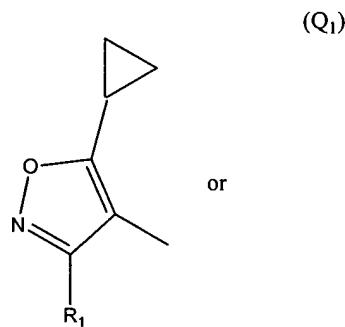
a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

(I)

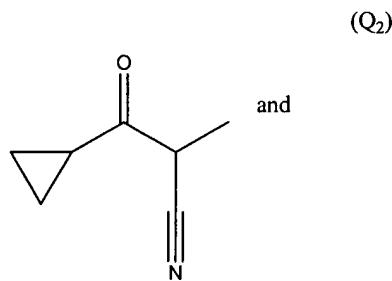


wherein

Q is the group



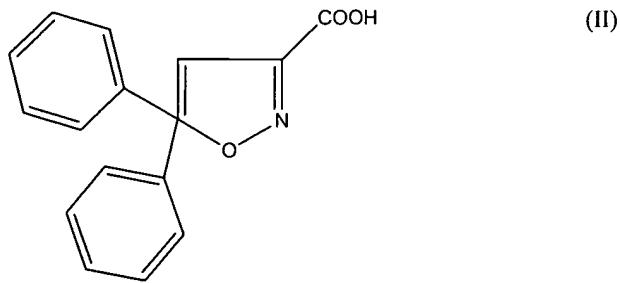
(Q1)



(Q2)

R₁ is hydrogen, -COO-C₁-C₄-alkyl,
-S-C₁-C₄alkyl or -SO-C₁-C₄alkyl; and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener of formula II



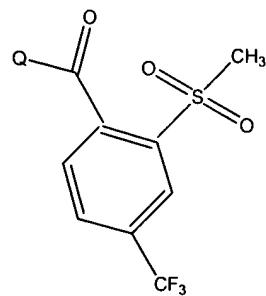
61. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 1~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 60 according to claim 58.

62. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 61 ~~claim 59~~, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.

63. (Currently amended) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

- a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

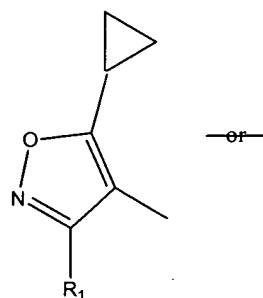
(I)



wherein

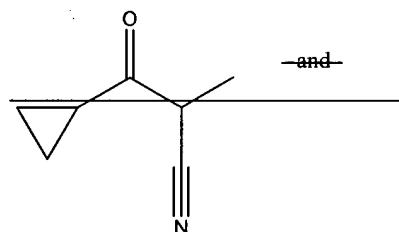
Q is the group

(Q₁)



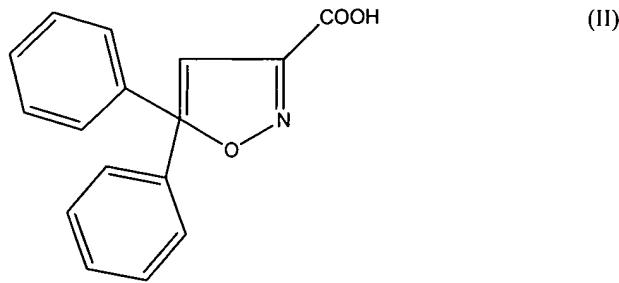
—or—

(Q₂)



wherein R₁ is hydrogen, -COO-C₁-C₄-alkyl,
-S-C₁-C₄alkyl or -SO-C₁-C₄alkyl; and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener of formula II



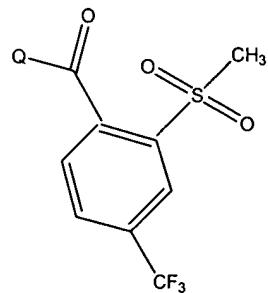
64. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 4~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II wherein herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 63 according to claim 61.

65. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 64 ~~claim 62~~, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.

66. (Previously presented) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

- a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

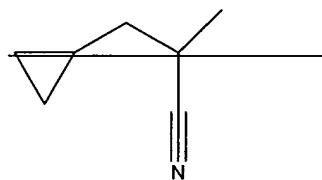
(I)



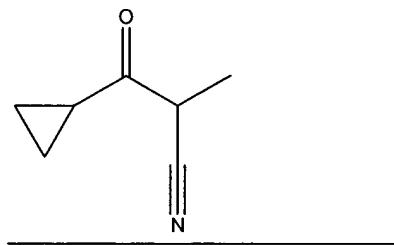
wherein

Q is the group

-(Q₂)

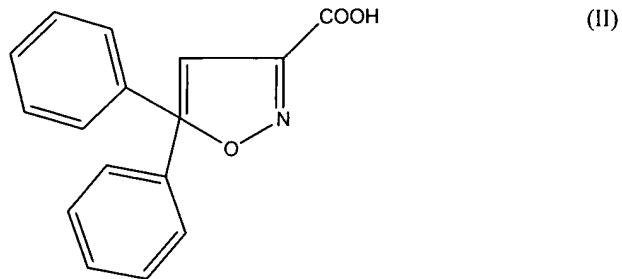


(Q₂)



and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener of formula II



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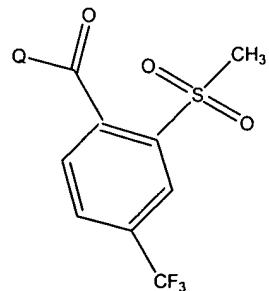
67. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 64~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein the herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 66 according to claim 64.

68. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 67 ~~claim 65~~, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.

69. (Previously presented) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

- a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

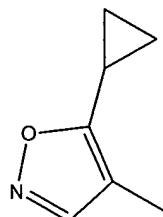
(I)



wherein

Q is the group

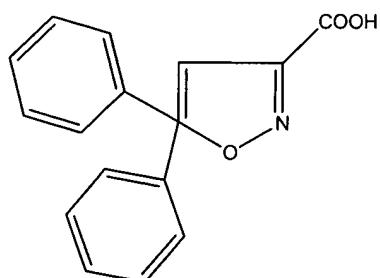
(Q₁)



and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener of formula II

(II)



70. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 10~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein the herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 69 according to claim 67.

71. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 70 ~~claim 68~~, wherein the cultivate plants are maize

72. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

73. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

74. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

75. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

76. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

77. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 25 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

78. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

79. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

80. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

81. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

82. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

83. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

84. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

85. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

86. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

87. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

88. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

89. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 29 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

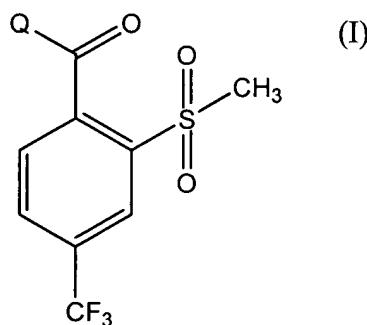
90. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 34 in which the crop plant to be protected is maize.

91. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 34 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.004 kg to 5 kg per hectare.

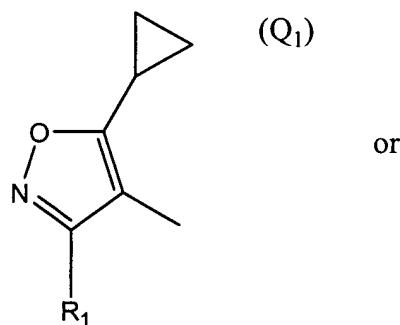
92. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 34 in which the application rate of the benzoylisoxazole and/or dione of formula (I) is from 0.01 kg to 2 kg per hectare.

93. (Currently amended) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

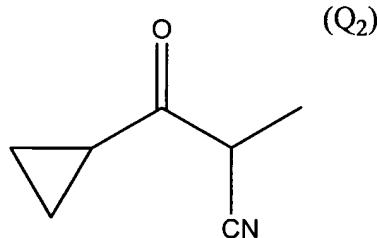
a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I



wherein



or

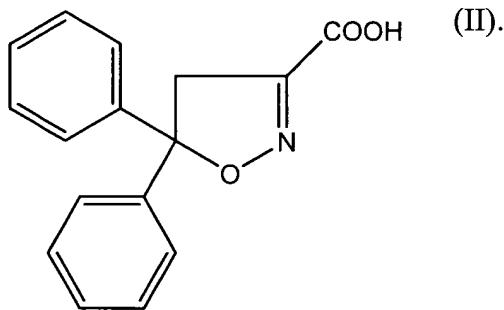


Q is the group

; and

R₁ is hydrogen, -COO-C₁-C₄-alkyl, -S-C₁-C₄-alkyl or -SO-C₁-C₄-alkyl; and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener comprising the ethyl esters of the compound of formula II

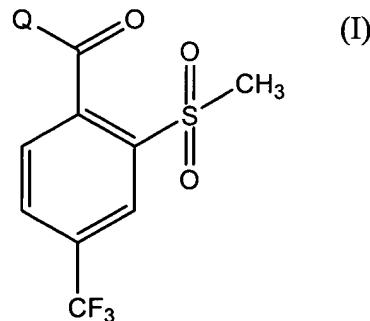


94. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 93~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein the herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 93 according to claim 93.

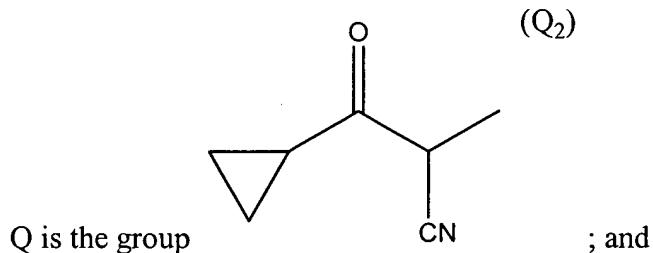
95. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 94, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.

96. (Currently amended) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

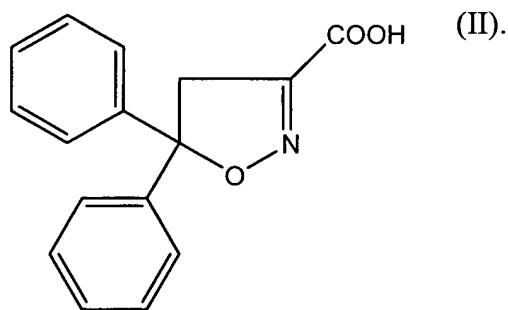
- a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I



wherein



b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener comprising the ethyl esters of the compound of formula II

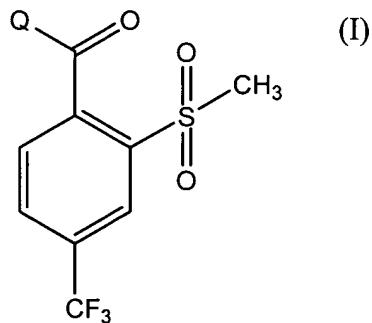


97. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 96~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 69 according to claim 96.

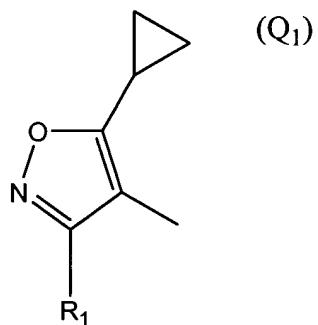
98. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 97, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.

99. (Currently amended) A selective herbicidal composition comprising, in addition to customary inert formulation assistants, a mixture of

a) a herbicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I

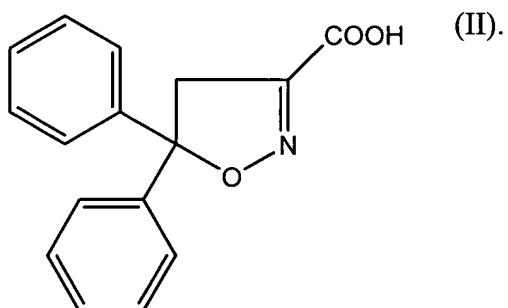


wherein



Q is the group R_1 ; and

b) to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of a safener comprising the ethyl esters of the compound of formula II



100. (Currently amended) A method of selectively controlling weeds and grasses in crops of cultivated plants, which comprises treating said cultivated plants, the seeds or seedlings or the crop area thereof, concurrently or separately, with a herbicidally effective amount of the compound of formula I ~~according to claim 99~~ and, to antagonise the herbicide, an antidotally effective amount of the safener of formula II, wherein herbicide and safener are as defined in claim 99 according to claim 99.

101. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 100, wherein the cultivated plants are maize.